

November 4, 1884.

Prof. Flower, LL.D., F.R.S., President, in the Chair.

The Secretary read the following reports on the additions made to the Society's Menagerie during the months of June, July, August, and September, 1884:—

The total number of registered additions to the Society's Menagerie during the month of June was 223, of which 56 were by birth, 64 by presentation, 75 by purchase, 3 by exchange, and 25 were received on deposit. The total number of departures during the same period by death and removals was 92.

The following are of special interest:—

1. Two Red-cheeked Colies (*Colius erythromelon*), purchased June 12th. We have only once¹ before received living examples of this peculiar African type, and the present species is new to the collection. Mr. Keulemans's figure (Plate XLV. figs. 2, 3) will give an idea of the form of this species and of the remarkable colour of the naked skin round the beak.

2. Two Chaplain Crows (*Corvus capellanus*) from Fao (near Busrih), at the head of the Persian Gulf, presented June 25th by B. T. Finch, Esq. We are glad to receive fresh examples of this interesting Crow, which was first described from living specimens in the Society's Gardens in 1876 (see P. Z. S. 1876, p. 693, pl. lxxvi.).

The registered additions to the Society's Menagerie during the month of July were 195 in number; of these 74 were acquired by presentation, 50 by purchase, 2 by exchange, 35 by birth, and 34 were received on deposit. The total number of departures during the same period by death and removals was 117.

The most noticeable additions during the month were:—

1. A second² specimen of the Heloderm Lizard (*Heloderma suspectum*), received in exchange from the Central-Park Menagerie, New York, U.S.A., July 3rd.

2. A Collection of Snakes from Japan and North America, brought home and presented to the Society by Gerald Waller, Esq., F.Z.S., July 22nd, amongst which are representatives of five species new to the Collection, viz.:—The Four-banded Snake (*Elaphis quadrivirgata*), and Blomhoff's Snake (*Trionocephalus blomhoffi*), from Japan; the American Black Snake (*Coluber constrictor*), the Mexican Snake (*Pituophis mexicanus*), and the Cyclopion Snake (*Tropidonotus cyclopion*), from North America.

3. A young female Cape Sea-Lion (*Otaria pusilla*), from South Africa, presented to the Society by Capt. John Hewat, Superintendent of the Docks, Cape Town, July 25th. This Seal forms a particularly

¹ See P. Z. S. 1876, p. 413, pl. xxxv.

² See P. Z. S. 1882, p. 630.

acceptable addition to the Collection, as we have just lost our former specimen of the Cape Sea-Lion, which was presented to the Society by Sir Henry Barkly, C.M.Z.S., and lived nearly thirteen years in the Gardens.

4. An African Barbet of the genus *Trachyphonus*, purchased July 29th, being the first example of this form of Barbet we have received alive. The bird appears to belong to *Trachyphonus purpuratus* of West Africa, but is not quite in adult plumage.

The total number of registered additions to the Society's Menagerie during the month of August was 143; of these 85 were acquired by presentation, 41 by purchase, 4 by birth, 2 by exchange, and 11 were received on deposit. The total number of departures during the same period by death and removals was 137.

The following are of special interest :—

1. A Somali Wild Ass (*Equus asinus somalicus*), from Somali Land, received in exchange August 11th. I propose to give a description of this apparently new form of Wild Ass in a subsequent communication.

2. Two Blue Snow-Geese (*Chen caerulescens*), from Alaska, obtained by purchase August 11th. These are the first examples of this fine species which have been exhibited in the Society's Gardens.

3. A Flying Gecko (*Ptychozoon homalocephalum*), from Java, and six Black-spotted Toads (*Bufo melanostictus*), also from Java. They were presented to the Society by Dr. F. H. Bauer, C.M.Z.S., of Buitenzorg, Batavia.

The total number of registered additions to the Society's Menagerie during the month of September was 111; of these 57 were acquired by presentation, 22 by purchase, 9 by birth, and 23 were received on deposit. The total number of departures during the same period by death and removals was 119.

Mr. Sclater exhibited the flat skin of a Cheetah, obtained at Beaufort West, South Africa, and forwarded to him by the Rev. G. H. R. Fisk, C.M.Z.S. Mr. Sclater observed that this skin agreed nearly with that of the animal formerly in the Society's Menagerie and described and figured by him in P. Z. S. 1877, p. 532, pl. lv., as the Woolly Cheetah (*Felis lanea*), the skin of which is now in the British Museum. It was, however, rather smaller in size and more distinctly spotted, and perhaps not quite so densely furred, owing probably to the fact that the animal was, as Mr. Fisk believed, a female.

Mr. Sclater was of opinion that this skin went to corroborate the existence of *Felis lanea* as a valid species, although he was assured by Mr. Oldfield Thomas that the skull of the specimen formerly in the Society's Gardens did not differ from that of the ordinary Cheetah.

The Secretary exhibited, on behalf of Major W. Brydon, B.S.C., C.M.Z.S., an egg of Blyth's Tragopan (*Cerionis blythi*)¹, which had been laid by a hen in the possession of that gentleman at Debrughar, Assam.

The Secretary read an extract from a letter from the same correspondent containing an account of his efforts to procure a specimen of the Takin (*Budorcas taxicolor*) for the Society. When recently on an advanced frontier-station, Major Brydon had made many endeavours to procure young specimens of this scarce animal, but was informed by the natives that it was impossible to keep it in captivity, as it always "jumped itself to death," as they expressed it.

The Secretary exhibited, on behalf of Mr. J. C. Parr, F.Z.S., a specimen of the chick of the Vulturine Guinea-Fowl (*Numida vulturina*), hatched in Lancashire on September 10th. The hen of this species in Mr. Parr's possession had laid very late in August, and after sitting about a week died. The six eggs were then put under a common hen, and five young chicks were the result: one, which had died on the 15th of October, was now exhibited.

The Secretary believed that this was the first instance of the Vulturine Guinea-Fowl having bred in this country.

The Rev. H. H. Slater, F.Z.S., exhibited a specimen of the Barred Warbler (*Sylvia nisoria*) obtained on the Yorkshire coast by himself on the 28th August, 1884. The specimen was a female bird in immature plumage. It was found in an elder-hedge by a potato-garden on the sand-hills, and was very shy and difficult to see. The first British-killed specimen of this species was exhibited at a meeting of this Society on March 4th, 1879 (see P. Z. S. 1879, p. 219).

Mr. H. E. Dresser exhibited specimens of *Sylvia nisoria* and *Hypolais icterina* killed in Norfolk, and made the following remarks:—

The Rev. H. H. Slater has just exhibited an immature specimen (the second on record as having been killed in England) of *Sylvia nisoria*, and I am glad to be able to place before you a third example of this Warbler, shot by Mr. F. D. Power, of Cold-Harbour Lane, Brixton, on the 4th of September last, in some scrub at the base of Blakeney sandhills, Norfolk. This gentleman informs me that he saw no other bird at all resembling it on that day, though Garden Warblers were very numerous. This specimen is a female in immature plumage, and closely resembles the bird exhibited by Mr. Slater. The first recorded occurrence was of a fully adult bird, which was also exhibited at a meeting of this Society by Professor Newton². Another rare bird which I now have the pleasure to exhibit is an immature example of *Hypolais icterina*, also shot by

¹ See P. Z. S. 1872, p. 496; 1879, p. 457.

² See P. Z. S. 1879, p. 219.

Mr. Power near Blakeney, on the 11th of September last. He informs me that he shot it from a thick clump of thistles along the Cley sea-wall. No other bird was near it, although he had observed a great arrival of Wheatears, Redstarts, and one Bluethroat that afternoon, all coming direct from the north, the wind being east-north-east. As will be seen, this bird was much damaged by the shot, indeed so much so that the sex was indistinguishable. This is the third occurrence of this species in Great Britain on record.

Mr. W. B. Tegetmeier, F.Z.S., exhibited a specimen of the File-fish (*Balistes capriscus*) recently caught off Folkestone.

A paper was read by Mr. F. E. Beddard on the anatomy and systematic position of a gigantic Earthworm from the Cape Colony, proposed to be called *Microchæta rappi*.

This paper will be published entire in the Society's 'Transactions.'

The following papers were read :—

1. On a Collection of Lepidoptera made by Major J. W. Yerbury at or near Aden. By ARTHUR G. BUTLER, F.L.S., F.Z.S., &c.

[Received September 30, 1884.]

(Plate XLVI.)

The collection of which this is an account is one of the greatest interest, since it not only contains fine series of the beautiful species of *Teracolus* recently described by Col. Swinhoe, but also many remarkable intergrades between certain long-established species, tending to prove either that hybrids between allied species are fertile (which I believe is rarely the case), or that in Aden a condition of things still exists which in Asia proper and in Africa has long passed away. Thus in the *Euplocinæ* we find *Limnas chrysippus* gradually passing into *L. alcippus* and freely intermarrying with the Indo-African and Lower-Nubian types of *L. dorippus*; yet, as the range of these forms does not by any means correspond, they are practically distinct (see chart, Pl. XLVI.). Even in Africa, where *L. chrysippus* has a wide range, it does not appear to coexist with *L. alcippus*: it is true that the range of the latter species can be but imperfectly traced; thus, in the Museum series we only have it from Sierra Leone to Ashanti, and in Mr. Godman's collection¹ it occurs here and there at wide intervals over great part of Africa, but does not extend further south than the Orange River (Mr. Godman's localities are Sierra Leone, Cape Coast Castle, Winnebah, Senegal, Lower Niger, Sennaar, Abyssinia, and Kimberley). The existence of a *Hypolimnas*,

¹ I here desire to express my thanks to Mr. Godman for examining the whole of his specimens and forwarding to me a list of their localities.